

# Ellis Island Oral Interview

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Education Department  
Ellis Island Immigration Museum  
Statue of Liberty National Monument



**Interviewee: Catherine Gaetano Gallippi**

Date of Birth: February 17, 1914

Date of Interview: December 12, 1990

Interviewer: Paul E. Sigrist, Jr.

Immigrated from Italy at Age 8 in 1922

Ellis Island Collection: EI-17

**Gallippi (At Ellis Island):** Oh yes. This young woman here, she, they were examining her hair. She had it braided up so beautifully because, I guess, she was going to meet someone, you know. And they unbraided all her hair and evidently they found something there because they were clipping her hair, just cutting here and there. And she started to cry. She said, "But your cutting my hair!" She says, "Well, my dear, if you want to be in America, we want to make sure that your hair is clean."